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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 000131

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHIE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DEPT FOR
DS/IP/NEA;
DRL FOR A/S CRANER; NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN;
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP, PRM FOR DEWEY/GREENE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [GZ](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: FATAL ATTACK ON SETTLER NEAR NABLUS;
ONE PALESTINIAN KILLED IN GAZA AND TWO OTHERS INJURED TWO
DAYS BEFORE HISTORIC PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS; JANUARY 7,
2005 (1500 HOURS LOCAL)

This is a joint ConGen Jerusalem/Embassy Tel Aviv cable.

11. (SBU) Summary: Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades claimed responsibility for an attack on a settler car near Nablus January 7 that left one settler dead. A five-year-old Palestinian boy was accidentally killed in the West Bank January 6 when an IDF jeep ran him over. In Gaza, one Palestinian was killed and two others injured by Israeli gunfire January 7. With Palestinian elections scheduled to take place January 9, Abu Mazen described Sharon as a "partner for peace" and called for the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations following the elections. End Summary.

West Bank

12. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:

-- Deaths: Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades claimed responsibility for an attack on a settler's car near Nablus January 7 that left one Israeli settler dead. The IDF sealed off the area while searching for the culprits.

-- Death: An IDF jeep accidentally ran over and killed a five-year-old Palestinian boy January 6 in Hebron, according to Palestinian sources.

-- Injuries: Nil.

-- Attacks: Palestinian gunmen opened fire on IDF positions south of Nablus and in Tulkarm and Jenin on January 6, according to Israeli and Palestinian media, but no casualties were reported.

-- Attacks: Four Israeli Yeshiva students spit at, cursed and beat an Armenian priest in the Old City on January 6, according to Jerusalem municipal and Armenian sources. The police detained the students and reportedly may charge them. This is the second such incident in the Armenian Quarter within the last four days.

-- Attacks: A bomb exploded near a vehicle belonging to an Israeli settler in Sanur, near Jenin, according to Israeli and Palestinian media, but no injuries were reported.

-- Arrests: In Halhu (near Hebron), the IDF arrested January 6, 20 Palestinian Fatah activists, who were placing campaign posters on city walls, according to Palestinian sources.

13. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

-- According to Israeli radio reports January 6, Israeli extremists led by David Adari threatened to disrupt voting by Palestinians in east Jerusalem, by descending on the post office polling places in large numbers to conduct postal business. Israeli police sources, however, said they will deploy officers to assist residents in reaching post offices to vote.

-- In press interviews January 6, Abu Mazen described Sharon as a partner for peace and called for an immediate resumption of negotiations after the Palestinian elections. Abu Mazen visited al-Ram near Jerusalem January 7.

Gaza

14. (SBU) ATTACKS:

-- Death: Israeli media reported that IDF troops shot and killed one Palestinian on January 7 as he was apparently

trying to infiltrate the settlement of Ganei Tal in the Gush Katif settlement bloc.

-- Injuries: According to the IDF, two Palestinians were injured January 7 by IDF tank shell shooting south of Rafah.

-- Mortars/Rockets: Israeli media reported that Palestinians fired two mortar rounds in the southern Gaza strip on January 7. There were no casualties, but damage was reported. Palestinians also reportedly fired a Qassam rocket at an Israeli community in the western Negev desert, but no casualties or damage resulted. There were three other mortar shell explosions overnight January 6-7 at Gdid, Nezer Hazani and Neve Dekalim, but no injuries or damage were reported. Another mortar shell explosion on January 6 at the Sufa crossing resulted in no damage or injuries.

-- Shootings: According to the IDF, an IDF patrol shot at Palestinians on January 6 near Kfar Darom, but no injuries resulted.

-- Explosions: Nil.

15. (SBU) INCURSIONS/DEMOLITIONS: Nil.

16. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS:

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open January 7, with a major detour at Netzarim Junction.

-- Erez Crossing was open for internationals, a limited number of Palestinians and for Hajj travelers on January 7.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone remained closed January 7.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian laborers, but was open for the import of aggregates used in construction.

-- Karni Terminal was open, but operating slowly.

-- Rafah Terminal was closed for arrivals and departures.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed January 7. Toufah checkpoint was closed for residents of al-Mowassi January 7.

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